

# BACKGROUND *Purpose and Need*

A project's "purpose and need" defines why the project is to take place, and what its goals are.

## Motorist Safety

- **Widening the road:** Choptank Road is a very narrow road in an area of increasing traffic. And given the rural character of the road, drivers tend to travel at a high speed.



Several accidents have occurred at this substandard curve along Bunker Hill Rd just west of Choptank Rd.

- **Improving substandard curves:** Several curves in the project area do not meet DelDOT design standards. Straightening these curves will help prevent accidents.
- **Improving intersections:** Providing roundabouts at three key intersections will calm traffic by forcing motorists to slow down. This will also discourage large trucks from using Choptank Road and will add attractive features that complement the area's rural charm.

## Bicycle Safety

- **Providing shoulders with bicycle markers:** Choptank Road is part of Delaware's Bicycle Route 1, a scenic corridor for bicycle travel through the state. Paving shoulders and adding bicycle markings will make the route much safer and pleasant for cyclists.



## Drainage

- **Adding drainage improvements:** Like much of Delaware, Choptank Road sits in a low and flat area and often experiences drainage problems. Drainage improvements, such as roadside ditches and drainage ponds will improve these conditions. Better drainage will also prevent potholes and other road damage.



Pavement conditions suffer as a result of poor drainage.



The project team is working with the Army Corp of Engineers and Natural Resource Conservation Service to minimize drainage impacts.